

NOTES, INFORMATION & NEWS

Concerning the Type Material of
Lasaea subviridis Dall, 1899

by

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In 1899, Dall made available a Carpenter manuscript name, *Lasaea rubra* "var." *subviridis*, in his review of the North American Leptonacea (DALL, 1899:881) for specimens from "Lower California" that were "pale greenish yellow." KEEN (1938:23, 24, 29-30, 32; pl. 2, figs. 1-3) designated a neotype for this species. It was Stanford University Paleontology Type Collection no. 6053 and is now at the California Academy of Sciences with the rest of the Stanford University collection.

This neotype designation is invalid because Dall's original material was never properly searched for. Paul Bartsch of the U.S. National Museum of Natural History looked on behalf of Dr. Keen only for Carpenter's original material (see footnote, KEEN, 1938:30). Because the name was made available by Dall, not by Carpenter, any material that Dall had in hand when he named the species would be available as type specimens.

According to the 1985 edition of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature, a neotype designated before 1961 may be considered invalid (Art. 75g) if it does not meet the appropriate provisions of Art. 75, among them that the author publishes reasons for believing that the original material is lost or destroyed (Art. 75[d]3). Because it is clear that Bartsch and Keen did not establish that *Dall's* material was lost, the neotype designation does not stand.

I have set aside as syntypes a lot in the U.S. National Museum of Natural History that was in the collection before Dall worked on his paper and that was undoubtedly studied by him. It was numbered USNM 75032. Because this number does not correspond with the entry in the collection register with this number, it has been renumbered USNM 859071. It is from Bahía San Quintín, Baja California Norte, and was collected by Walter J. Fisher on 27 April 1876 among *Mytilus* on rocks. It contains 30 pairs and 6 valves.

I believe that the selection of lectotypes should be done by workers doing revisions of the particular groups involved. This ensures the selection of a specimen that may show particularly important characters not readily apparent to a non-expert. It is especially important that a lectotype designation of this species be made by someone knowledgeable about this genus, which is proving to be

more taxonomically complex than previously thought (D. Eernisse, *in litt.*, Nov. 1986).

Literature Cited

- DALL, W. H. 1899. Synopsis of the Recent and Tertiary Leptonacea of North America and the West Indies. U.S. Natl. Mus., Proc. 21(1177):873-897, pls. 87, 88 (26 June).
KEEN, A. M. 1938. New pelecypod species of the genera *Lasaea* and *Crassinella*. Malacol. Soc. Lond., Proc. 23(1):18-32, pl. 2 (16 March).

Important Notice:

Problems with Mailing of January Issue

Serious problems with the mailing of the January issue have been brought abundantly to our attention. Apparently, a new machine was used by the Printer to insert mailing labels into the plastic sleeve that encloses and protects your journal during postal delivery. Unfortunately, the machine malfunctioned, resulting on many occasions in more than one mailing label being inserted into the plastic sleeve, with one journal copy. If, for instance, three labels were accidentally inserted, only one subscriber received this journal issue on time, and two subscribers did not.

Although the California Malacozoological Society was in no way responsible for these errors, we apologize on behalf of the Printer for the inconvenience caused. We also sincerely thank those thoughtful subscribers who returned the additional mailing labels inserted with their journal copy. This allowed us to immediately send copies to many of those who were missed. We have received assurances that the mechanical problems have been corrected and should not reoccur.

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